PLAY IT SAFE

Don't Mix Gaiety With Danger When Celebrating Christmas

While Christmas is the merriest of all seasons of the year it can also be a time of tragedy if certain hazards aren't avoided and some particular precautions taken.

The National Safety Council annually points out that the Christmas holidays are the most dangerous of the year, usually replete with casualties, home accidents, fires and falls.

The council has listed the following "don'ts" and precautions which if remembered will help make this Christmas season a safe one:

The Christmas tree shouldn't be placed near a stove or fireplace.

Don't give children any toys that could prove dangerous, such as these with sharp points. If toys are operated with electricity, be sure some grownup supervises their use.

The Christmas tree should not be decorated with lighted candles. Carefully-wired electric bulbs definitely are much safer.

Don't leave a lighted tree unguarded at any time. One should be on the lookout for fire all the time the tree is lighted. Especially dangerous is the practice of some families in leaving the Christmas tree lighted and unwatched all night long.

One should never use a rickety, unsafe ladder in decorating the tree.

Don't place Christmas candles near the tree, curtains, paper wreaths or any other inflammable decorations.

Remember, the Christmas tree can be made fire-resistant. According to the United States forestry service, it can be done in this manner: Divide the weight of your tree by four and buy that many pounds of ammonium sulphate. Dissolve it in water—one and one-half pints of water to each pound of ammonium sulphate. Cut the end of your tree trunk on a diagonal. Put some of the solution in a jar and stick the diagonal butt of the tree into it. Add more solution as the tree drinks it up.

Don't be excessive about Christmas "spirits."

Keep toys out of places where people might trip over them.

Remove the tree from the house before it dries out.

During Christmas you'll probably have many guests, so sprinkle salt or sand on icy steps and sidewalks.

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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Now Hospitals Are "Banks," Too!

Doc Simpson was saying, "Hospitals are building up 'bone banks' that work just like blood banks. When bone is needed, the surgeon takes one from a refrigerator, cuts it to the right shape and simply splices it in."

"You doctors are sure making progress," I says, "but tell me, are any of the patients fussy about whose bone they're getting?"

"No sir!" replies Doc, "No more than they worry about whose blood they get. No one yet asked for a bone from a man who went to the same school or church he did."

From where I sit, it would be a better world if we were half as willing to accept other people's ideas and tastes, as we seem to be willing to accept their bone and blood. Thatsill always be differences. Some like buttermilk, others would rather have a sparkling glass of temperate beer. But underneath we're pretty much the same—deserving each other's respect and tolerance!

Joe Marsh

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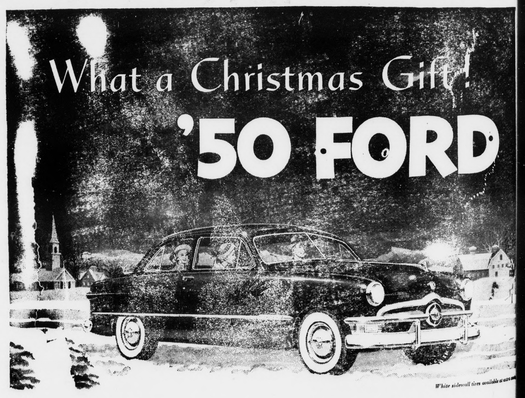
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY



ITS 100 H.P. V-8 ENGINE PURRS QUALITY

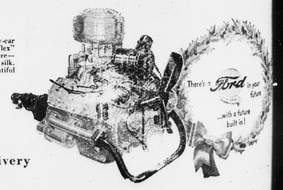
It's an engine that's as powerful as a herd of reindeer —and as silent as the night before Christmas! Yes, Ford offers you the only 100 h.p. engine—the only V-8 engine—in the low-price field. Yet the '50 Ford, with this engine, sells for less than most Sixes.

NEW "HUSHED" RIDE, TOO!

Drive a '50 Ford and you'll notice quiet that whispers quality. The powerful V-8 engine whispers while it works. And doors, roof, and body panels are "sound conditioned" against road noises. Even the 13-way cushioned "Lifeguard" Body adds to the quiet. But drive it yourself and see why no other car delivers so much for your money.

IT'S THE ONE FINE CAR IN THE LOW-PRICE FIELD

With Ford's quality-car power, you get quality-car "feel," too! For Ford's "Hydr-O-Coil" and "Para-Flex" Springs make the bumps feel like they aren't there—and Ford's "Mid-Ship" Ride is as smooth as silk. From its soft foam rubber front seat to its beautiful baked-on-finish, Ford leads its field in quality.



See your FORD DEALER about Christmas Delivery

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 30; DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalm 130

Is God Available?

Lesson for December 18, 1949

DOES GOD EXIST? Yes. There is every good reason to believe that he does. But when we have answered that question in the affirmative, we have not settled the most important questions of religion. There are the other two questions of equal importance: What kind of God is he? and, Is he available? Let us give some thought to this last question. One of our Christmas carols begins, "Dear high, dear Immanuel!" Immanuel is one of the names by which Jesus is called for the Christian church has always read Isaiah 7:14 as a prophecy of Jesus Christ. The name means "God with us" and is the answer to the deepest cry of the heart.

God in heaven far away, God the Creator who set in motion this mighty universe, God the All-powerful ruling beyond the stars, God the Eternal who knows neither youth nor age.

Such a God has sometimes been believed in by men who nevertheless walked in a dark cloud of darkness, doubting that so great a God could possibly have any interest in their own affairs.

Is God WITH us? Is God with US? Is GOD with us? That is the question that tormenis the troubled mind. With one voice, the whole church of God answers Yes; the name of the one in whose face we see the glory of God is named "God-with-us."

In the first chapter of the Bible we hear of a God who walked with his children in a garden. In the first chapters of the Gospels we hear songs to the God who has "visited his people;" and in almost the last chapter of the Bible we hear the promise, "God himself shall be with them and be their own God."

• • •

"When ye shall search for him with all your hearts"

MOST TRUTHS are two-sided. You have to keep both sides in mind or you will not fully understand. God is with us yes: God is with all men, yes—that is, there are no favorites with him, he refuses his presence to no one. God is always available, available to all. That is one side of the truth.

The other side is this: God is not equally with all men. Some men are alienated from God. Some men are godless. Even among those with whom God lives, we may fairly say that God is with some in a higher degree, in fuller measure, than he is with others. Jeremiah gives the clue to this truth: "Ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:13). Those who do not search for God will not find him.

Those whose search is halfhearted only half-find him. God does not enter uninvited. He is available, but he will not force his way in. We see how this is when we think about Christians we know. It does not make sense to say that they are all equally godly.

We have known some great Christians of whom we might almost dare to say that Paul's prayer had been answered, that they have been filled with the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:19.) But in other Christians, who certainly have some small seed of faith in them, it may be hard even for a kindly observer to see many signs of God's presence.

• • •

Thou can'st, a little baby thing . . .

GOD is in all things, he shines in all that's fair," as we sing in familiar hymn. But the center of the Christian faith is that God comes to man especially and most clearly in Jesus Christ.

No matter how strongly men believed in God in olden times, always they looked forward, as the prophets show, to a time when God would come nearer than he had been before. True, it was a surprise when finally it came to Bethlehem, "a little baby thing that made a woman cry."

A world accustomed to kings in purple robes, in well-guarded palaces was surprised that the King of the Universe would be found as a child among the poor. But after all which better represented his All-Available God—a King in his palace walls, or a child in a home that loves him?

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Va. Highway Department Ready For Winter

Determined to beat for the fourth consecutive year a record of "not one school day lost because of mud on the roads," the State Highway Department this week this week shifted into a winter operating schedule.

Highway engineers said that in most instances, school bus and the farm-to-market roads are in "good shape for the winter." In a fashion reminiscent of football coaches, however, they were cautious in their optimism.

With a mild winter like that of last year, "we'll get through all right," one engineer commented. "But we've got to be prepared for anything."

Making ready for "anything," local engineers have stock-piled crushed stone and gravel at strategic points along roads likely to fail in the event of prolonged rain or snow. Patrolmen already are keeping constant check to survey weak spots.

Not since the winter of 1935-36 has a Virginia school bus failed to make its run because of mud on the roads. If pre-winter preparations provide any indication, highway engineers will keep their record intact through another year.

Throughout the state, the department this summer placed a strong emphasis on strengthening the gravel-surfaced school bus routes. Emphasis, too, was placed on bringing a greater mileage of RFD and farm-to-market roads to all - weather standards.

As the highway department geared its working program to meet winter conditions, many road construction projects were going under partial or complete shutdown, to prevent interference with traffic.

Many areas of the state were completing "dry runs" with their snow removal equipment and others already had sampled the real thing with sleet and snow that required the use of chemicals and abrasives to keep the roads from icing. In at least two counties, snow plows already had pushed light snow off the roads.

Most surface treatment work has ceased because of low temperatures and there was a letup in concrete work. Neither resurfacing nor concrete work can be carried on during cold weather.

The arrival of winter will find 175 highway construction projects underway in the state. Under conditions of partial shutdown, work will continue away from existing roads or where there will be little interference with traffic. Complete shutdown orders are issued where work would seriously inconvenience traffic.

Though construction in many instances will be eased or suspended, highway forces will still have their hands full. Top priority during the winter months is assigned to snow removal and ice control. In milder weather, forces are active painting and repairing signs, working slide control, cleaning roadside ditches, and a host of maintenance activities.

Petersburg budget nears two million dollars.

Germans deny wanting an army of their own.

EUROPEAN ORCHARD GRASS UNSUITABLE FOR VIRGINIA

European orchard grass strains under test at Virginia Experiment Station have proved totally unsuitable for state conditions.

Dr. T. J. Smith, agronomist at the main station at V. P. I., who with C. D. Jones, assistant agronomist at Piedmont field station at Orange, conducted the tests, says the European strains are late-maturing, low-yielding and do not have a good aftermath growth.

The agronomists tested both the European and local strains, and they found that the local strains far out-yielded the others in both seed and forage.

Physician says Truman in good health.

Virginia GOP backs coalition plan of Senator Bricker.

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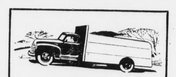
FIRST in passenger car sales for total 19-year period, 1931 to date



FIRST in truck sales for total 19-year period, 1931 to date

FIRST in total number of trucks on road today

*Year results based on complete but conclusive nationwide registration figures. All other facts listed here are based on complete and official nationwide registration figures.

MOSES MOTOR COMPANY

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